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FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5260  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 7666  
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1775  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 2298  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY 2191  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0131  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0060

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000426

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KS](#) [UN](#) [UZ](#)

SUBJECT: KARIMOV TO VISIT SEOUL; UZBEKISTAN WELCOMES SOUTH  
KOREAN CANDIDATE FOR UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Classified By: Amb. Jon R. Purnell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) South Korean ambassador to Uzbekistan Moon Hayong told Ambassador on February 28 that President Islam Karimov will visit Seoul March 28-30 for discussions with the South Korean government.

12. (U) In a development possibly related to the upcoming visit, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's news service, Jahon, reported on February 23 that Uzbekistan welcomes the nomination of South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ban Ki-moon, as a candidate for United Nations Secretary General. The article notes that "it is expected"

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that the next Secretary General will come from Asia, in line with "established practice" at the UN.

PURNELL